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David King Consumer/ Advocate In favor of Bill 6668

My name is David King and I am 22 years old with a disability. I have used a wheel chair throughout my life and I am on the pca waiver program. I currently have 4 pcas that help me.

My peas help me shower, transfer me in and out of my wheelchair and they even help me on my job with opening doors and using the restroom. There are a lot of challenges that peas have to go through. If one of my peas gets hurt, they don't have insurance so they can't go to the doctor. Also because I can't afford worker's comp for my peas, my peas would be left with out pay if they got hurt. It would then be harder for me to find another pea.

I worry about my peas leaving for a better job that pays more and offers benefits. Right now, I attend community college and I have a job working at the Arena Harbor Yard. I like that I can attend college and have a job. But if I don't have peas to help me then I would be stuck at home, in bed not able to go to school or my job.

Being independent is important to me. I live on my own, attend college and I have a job. However, my pcas wages and benefits shouldn't suffer just so I can be independent.

Good help is hard to find – If pcas were able to work with good wages and benefits, I would feel better knowing that my pcas would be able to keep helping me.

I support the PCA quality care council. Please make sure that I can keep my job, by helping pcas keep theirs.

Thank you